

IN THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A vehicle having an internal combustion engine and an axle carrier on which the engine ~~this~~ is mounted, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the axle carrier (1) has on its top side (4) at least one protective lining (5).
2. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the lining (5) ~~is consists of~~ a material ~~provided~~ with heat-insulating properties.
3. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~either of claims 1 and 2,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the material of the lining (5) has ~~is equipped with~~ sound-insulating properties.
4. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein ~~one of claims 1 to 3,~~ ~~characterized in that~~ the material of the lining (5) comprises ~~consists of~~ an elastomer-modified thermoplastic, ~~preferably polyamide or polyurethane.~~

5. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 3, characterized in that~~ the material of the lining (5) comprises ~~consists of~~ two interconnected plastics, the one plastic exhibiting sound-insulating properties and the other plastic exhibiting heat-insulating properties.
6. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 5, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the plastic having the heat-insulating properties is disposed above the plastic having the sound-insulating properties.
7. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 6, characterized in that~~ wherein the lining (5) covers a track control arm opening (10) in the axle carrier.
8. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 7, characterized in that~~ wherein the lining (5) covers a spring control arm opening (11) in the axle carrier (1).
9. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 8, characterized in that~~ wherein the lining (5) covers an interspace (12) between the axle carrier (1) and a longitudinal member of the vehicle [[,]] to which the axle carrier (1) is fastened.

10. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 9, characterized in that~~ the lining covers a bearing (13) of the axle carrier (1) for an axle stabilizer.

11. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 10, characterized in that~~ the linings (5) of the individual cover points are joined together in one piece.

12. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 11, characterized in that~~ the two longitudinal sides (3) of the axle carrier (1), extending parallel to the vehicle longitudinal axis, are fully covered by ~~means of~~ the lining (5), with the exception of the fastening points (8)[[,]] for fastening to the longitudinal member[[,]] and the engine mount (2).

13. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 12, wherein ~~characterized in that~~ the two lining portions covering the longitudinal sides (3) of the axle carrier (1) are joined together in such a way that they form a single component, the connecting portions fully covering the transverse bridges (9) of the axle carrier (1), which join its longitudinal sides (3).

14. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that~~ the lining (5), with the exception of the fastening points (6) for fastening the lining (5) to the axle carrier (1), is distanced from the latter by an air gap (14).

15. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 13, characterized in that~~ the lining (5) is formed by a coating of the axle carrier (1).

16. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that~~ the lining (5) is of skin-like configuration conforming to the contour of the top side (4) of the axle carrier (1).

17. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 15, characterized in that~~ air chambers are formed on the top side of the lining (5).

18. (Currently Amended) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, ~~wherein one of claims 1 to 17, characterized in that~~ at points of covered openings (10, 11) in the axle carrier (1), on a circular surface, the lining (5) is provided with diametrical slots (15), with ~~the~~ slotted leaves (16) which are hereupon formed being of resiliently elastic configuration.

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19. (New) The vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein the material of the lining (5) comprises polyamide or polyurethane.